



## David L. Cook Sr.

September 22, 1950 - August 15, 2020

David L. Cook, Sr.

On August 15, 2020, David L. Cook, Sr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother peacefully passed away at age 69 at his Culpeper home.

David was born on September 22, 1950 to William W. “Bill” Cook and Eva “Kate” (Perciful) Cook at Fort Carson, Colorado. Being the middle child – having an older sister, Lucy, (seven years) and a younger sister, Kathy, (four years) – David was blessed with a steadfast, compassionate insight for the human condition; one that would become his trademark in life.

David graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in History in 1972 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army the same year. He attended the Naval Post Graduate School and the Command and General Staff College. During his 23-year Army career, David served as an infantryman, aviator, and military intelligence analyst specializing in both North and South Korea. His last assignment was as the installation commander for Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. Upon retirement, he served as director for the Army Heritage Center Foundation in Carlisle, PA, then as the Defense Intelligence Agency’s logistics and facilities manager for Rivanna Station, VA. He retired from that position at the end of May. In addition to his government service, David was an adjunct professor in the Masters in Public Administration program at Clemson University. He was instrumental in helping to develop the program, and is credited with building the Homeland Defense and Security Specialization area. David taught a series of online courses on national and cyber security issues for over a decade. He also was an avid musician, having earlier been a member of the Hershey (PA) Symphony Orchestra and Big Band for many years.

David is survived by his adoring wife, Charlotte Cole of Culpeper; a son, David Cook, Jr. of Colorado Springs, CO; two granddaughters, Madison Pallante of Mechanicsburg, PA, and Kylie Harris of Montgomery, AL; Charlotte’s daughter, Emilie Cole of San Francisco, CA; Charlotte’s son, James Cole of Washington, DC; two sisters, Lucy Mellott and her husband, Willard, of Edwardsville, KS, and E. Kathryn Cook and her husband, Neil Ahle, of Lawrence, KS; and two sisters-in-law, Susan Small of Edenton, NC, and Teresa Andrews, and her husband, Mark, of Charlottesville.

A private graveside service with military honors will be held on Friday, September 4 at the Culpeper National Cemetery for immediate family only.

Those wishing to commemorate David's extraordinary life may consider one of the following "good works" in lieu of flowers:

The James Madison Memorial Foundation, 129 Caroline Street, Orange, VA 22960

The Free Clinic of Culpeper: 610 Laurel St., Suite 3, Culpeper, VA 22701

Clemson University MPA Student Achievement Account - Dept 5735: Clemson University Gift Management Department, P.O. Box 1889, Clemson, SC 29633

Culpeper Food Closet: c/o St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 115 North East Street, Culpeper, VA 22701

Hershey Symphony Orchestra: P.O. Box 93, Hershey, PA 17033

An online guest book and tribute wall are available at [www.foundandsons.com](http://www.foundandsons.com).

Found and Sons in Culpeper is serving the family.

# Cemetery

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## Culpeper National Cemetery (New)

501 East Chandler Street

Culpeper, VA, 22701

# Comments

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“ Professor Cook will always be one of the most influential teachers and men whom I encountered during my life. I am one Professor Cook's students from the Clemson MPA program. I am filled with sorrow that we lost Professor Cook. His loss stirs my emotions so much that it is hard to find words. However, it is critical to find the words and share the way he positively inflected our world through the Clemson MPA program so that this part of his life can be celebrated. I know that teaching us was only the very tip of a very large proverbial ice berg when it comes to his contributions to our country and world.

While we have lost Professor Cook, his teachings will continue to live on through his students. I want to share the three most important things I learned from him as examples of the way he impacted me.

First, Professor Cook helped me discover an entire world of critical thinking skills of which I had no knowledge. Critical thinking is the process of thinking about something while simultaneously improving our thinking about it. We learned this skill in the context of intelligence analysis, but mastery of this skill liberates one's being from the chains of preconception and frees our mind to experience reality independent of any judgment. There is no greater gift that one man can give another than to see the world just as it is.

Second, Professor Cook taught me how to be an incredible teacher, especially in the cyber domain. Ironic as it is, my heart aches and feels the pain of loss even though I have never actually been in the same room or geographic location as Professor Cook. He was able to forge deep relationships with his students through his humor, humility, and approachability. It speaks to his magnanimity that his humanity transcended cyber space and was able to make each of us better as professionals and as people.

Third, Professor Cook taught me that humility and humor are the greatest skills we can have for leading people. Many of us in the Clemson MPA classes are Type A personalities. As an instructor myself, I can tell you that it can be a handful to have so many go-getters in a class learning important skills and discussing controversial topics. Yet, Professor Cook always built a sense of camaraderie and team. I took four classes with Professor Cook and in each one we became like a family. There are still many people with whom I keep in touch. How did he accomplish this? Because he was humble enough to allow us as students learn at our own pace (while he continued to guide us toward where we needed to be) while using humor to allow us to see the humanity in each other. (I still borrow from his puns when I am teaching about analytic bias!). He brought out--and to those who knew him still brings out--the best in people. Our world would be better if we had more Professor Cooks!

It hurts me to know that we lost Professor Cook. It is too soon for such an amazing person. I know that he has been called to his next mission and that we are all better for the time in which he joined us walking on this Earth. He is an exemplar for us all and I am so honored to have been able to spend a year of my life learning from him. Perhaps the best way to convey his impact on our lives is to carry on his memory through teaching our students the skills he taught us.

My heart breaks for his family, colleagues, and my fellow students. God speed,  
Professor Cook.

**Grant Allard** - September 11 at 04:19 PM

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“ TMG and Greenbrier Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David L. Cook Sr..



**TMG and Greenbrier Family** - September 03 at 10:17 AM

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“ To Charlotte and your whole family, I was so sad to hear of Dave’s passing. I worked with him at Rivanna Station for many years. I always appreciated his kindness and light-heartedness. He was attentive to anyone who needed help and the support he provided me truly made me feel valued. He accomplished so much in life and made a tremendous impact, yet remained humble, down-to-earth and thoughtful about the needs of others. What a wonderful example of a co-worker and friend. Wishing you all blessings of peace and comfort during this very difficult time.

**kristine Campbell** - September 01 at 07:24 AM



“ Dear Kristine - Dave was blessed with the A-team of highly competent, capable cohorts like you who energized his every working day. Thank you for your lovely words - they bring great comfort.

**Charlotte** - September 03 at 08:16 AM



“ Oh, my! What to say about a dear friend whom I met through music and with whom I enjoyed our mutual interest all these years! Music is my profession, yet David introduced me to many gorgeous pieces in the piano repertoire that I had not yet discovered for one reason or another. Because of his pointing me in those directions I have added some of that music to my own performance catalog. I have never known anyone so enthusiastically involved in a subject he loved, as he. Although I know nothing about his actual career, I know from knowing him that he had to have put his whole heart and soul into his teaching and into everything that he did. We will all miss him terribly, just being around him was always fun. His jokes, his human kindness, and his easy laughter and love of people in general was infectious. Au revoir to a dear person I am honored to have shared time with and to call friend. Charlotte, our thoughts are with you and I know that David is with you too. Say hello for me. Emile Pandolfi

**Emile Pandolfi** - September 05 at 12:24 PM



“ It’s really difficult to put into words what a good friend Dave was to me over the last 27+ years. He started as my boss and was great to work for. His easygoing manner, and his honesty, integrity, dedication and great sense of humor made it a pleasure to go to work each day. Getting to know him, and what he stood for, made it easy to anticipate what he wanted done on the job. He was one of those special bosses who you wanted to support in every way you could. He was a genuine friend through all the years, as well. He was happy to help out in any way he could, whether it meant providing sound advice or just taking time for a friendly conversation. While still in the Harrisburg area, he helped my musically inclined son to join the Hersey Symphony Orchestra and play in their summer Pops Concerts where Dave also played. That was a great experience my son and I will always cherish, made more special because Dave was there. In later years, even though we often lived many miles apart, Dave always stayed in contact. When we both worked in the DC area, there were many times he and Charlotte and I would get together, for either dinner or just some socializing. I will always cherish those memories and his abiding friendship. I will miss him terribly.

**Steve Trinkl**

**Steve Trinkl** - September 06 at 05:39 PM